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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY North Korea

REPORT

SUBJECT The Changyŏn First Primary
School, Hwanghae-namdo
(enrollment, administration,
curriculum & teacher training)

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report on the Changyŏn First Primary School, Changyŏn-gun,
Hwanghae-namdo, [redacted] The report covers the enroll-
ment, administration, curriculum of the school and teacher train-
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I. Changyŏn First Primary School

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The Changyŏn First Primary School was located in Changyŏn-ŏp, Changyŏn-gun, Hwanghae-namdo. It had four buildings: three temporary and one permanent. The three temporary buildings were built in 1952 and were each 100 meters long, 30 meters wide, five meters high, and roofed with thatch. The one permanent building was newly built about October 1955 with the support of the Changyŏn-gun People's Committee in funds, materials, and labor power, and was about 120 meters long, 40 meters wide, seven meters high, and roofed with tiles. The total number of the school personnel was 15 including the principal, and that of the students was 600. This school offered a four year course. The school had three classes of the 1st year, and each of the three consisted of 45 to 50 students and was taught by one teacher. () According to the stipulation of the ordinance of the Ministry of Education, each class was to be composed of 30 students as a rule.) Subjects covered by 1st year class students were Korean language, arithmetic, social life, gymnastics, Korean grammar, music, etc. Korean language and arithmetic were given the first priority among all subjects, and were taught every weekday. Textbooks were published by the Textbook Publication Bureau of the Ministry of Education, and were distributed to the county (Kun) book sales station through the provincial Education Department, and the county book sales station notified the county Education Department the arrival of textbooks for its allocation to schools under its control. Each school collected the prices of textbooks from students based on the allocation of the county Education Department, and the textbooks were purchased with the money by the school accounting officer or a teacher at the county (Kun) book sales station. The prices of textbooks, which were determined by the Textbook Publication Bureau of the Ministry of Education, ranged from 20 Won to 50 Won. Other school things were purchased by students at national stores and consumers' guild stores. () The families of those who were killed during the Korean War and war orphans were provided with school things free of charge.)

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The teaching plan blanks were distributed by the county (Kun) Education Department free of charge. The supply was received by the school accounting officer at the county Education Department and was distributed to teachers by the head teacher. The school had two classes of the 2nd year, each with 50 students. Subjects covered by 1st year classes were Korean language, arithmetics, natural science, social life, Korean grammar, gymnastics, calligraphy, music, painting. The heaviest emphasis was placed on Korean language and arithmetic. Each class was taught by one teacher. The third year grade consisted of two classes, each with 50 students and taught by one teacher. Subjects covered by the third year grade students were Korean language, arithmetic, history, geography, social life, natural science, painting, calligraphy, gymnastics, music. The heaviest emphasis was placed on Korean language and arithmetic.

The fourth year grade consisted of six classes, each with 35 to 40 students and taught by one teacher. Subjects covered were the same as those in the third year

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grade. Those who planned to advance to higher schools were given individual guidance by the teacher from 1500 to 1600 hours. The fourth year grade by far outnumbered other grades at the time because the five-year system of the primary school effective up to the year of 1954 - 1955 was reduced to four years from the year of 1955 - 1956, and only those students who attained high marks were graduated and others were made to continue their study for another year. During the period of 1955 to 1957, 70 to 80 per cent of the graduates of this school advanced to higher schools each year. [redacted] judging from the situation in the Changyŏn-gun, a night school department must have been established in one middle school in each seat of county (Kun) government in 1958. The night school was to provide all those primary school graduates who had missed the chance of advancing to higher schools and those students who worked during the daytime with middle school education. For transfer of a student from one school to another, only a student transfer request, a school certificate, and a list of the student's records which were issued in the name of the school principal were required. [redacted] from the year of 1958 - 1959 the number of students recruited by each primary school would show a sharp drop as a result of the Korean War, and thus, it would have more than enough teachers. On the other hand, however, the preparation for enforcement of compulsory common education system was to be completed with the first five-year plan period which was to end in 1960, and along with the preparation, a number of new junior middle schools were to be established. So the problem of training good primary school teachers as middle school teachers in the provincial educational staff school and by means of teachers' college correspondence courses was raised with especial emphasis. This problem was discussed in report delivered at a teachers' meeting of Changyŏn-gun which was held during the summer vacation in 1957. This type of teachers' meeting was held once or twice a year, with participation of all primary school teachers, middle school teachers and senior middle school teachers. Good primary school teachers were made to attend one year the provincial educational staff school which was operated by the provincial people's committee, upon the recommendation of the county (Kun) Education Department. The provincial educational staff school trained the recruited primary school teachers as middle school teachers. And other good primary school teacher were made to take the examination for entrance into correspondence teacher's colleges with the recommendation of the county (Kun) Education Department chief. Correspondence teacher's colleges offered literary course, history course, and physics and mathematics course, and teaching materials were mailed to them free of charge by their correspondence colleges. Students of correspondence teachers' colleges were requested to enter an examination once a month, and send their examination sheets to their colleges by mail. During the summer and winter vacations they personally attended their colleges and took first-hand lessons. Promotion examination was conducted at the end of each summer vacation, and those who failed in all subjects of the examination were deprived of their capacity as student of the correspondence college, and those who failed in part of subjects were made to take the examination in the corresponding subjects the following year. The study period of a correspondence college was two years.

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